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# Newsroom

April 7, 2016

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# Georgia Southern announces appointment of Maj. Laura McCullough to Chief of Police

APRIL 7, 2016



*Laura McCullough*

Maj. Laura McCullough has been appointed chief of police of the Georgia Southern University Office of Public Safety effective immediately. She has served as interim chief of police since May 31, 2015.

"Laura has demonstrated an excellent grasp of the unique population and environment on a University campus," said Interim University President Jean E. Bartels, Ph.D., R.N. "She has a great vision for developing a comprehensive department and strong educational focus for both students and officers."

McCullough has protected the campus community and assisted local law enforcement agencies since joining the University's Office of Public Safety in 2005 as a patrol officer. She has since served as a patrol sergeant, criminal investigations captain and most recently assistant director (Major), and interim chief of police. She also is a 2013 graduate of the FBI National Academy, has participated in the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Training and also is a P.O.S.T. Certified Forensic Technician. McCullough holds a B.S. in education from Samford University, a M.S. in education from Georgia State University and a M.S. in event management from the University of Tennessee.

"Laura has been and continues to be a great leader for the University police department. She has strong working relationships with the many police agencies in our local community. She has a strong commitment to Georgia Southern University," said Robert L. Whitaker, vice president for Business and Finance.

The University will perform a search for candidates to fill McCullough's now vacant position of assistant director in the Office of Public Safety.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers approximately 125 degree programs serving nearly 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu).

# Purge the Pills: Properly dispose of prescription drugs on April 11

APRIL 7, 2016

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP-OFF**

**MONDAY, APRIL 11**

**11 - 1 P.M.**

**RUSSELL UNION ROTUNDA**

**WHAT TO DROP**

1. Expired and unused Rx or OTC Medications (For Example: Cough Syrup)
2. Medication Samples, Pet Medications, and Inhalers
3. Medicated Ointment/Lotion/Drops and Unopened Epi-Pens

**WHAT NOT TO DROP**

1. Needles/Lancets/Syringes, Thermometers, and IV Bags
2. Nursing, Group Home Waste and Bloody or Infectious Waste
3. Hydrogen Peroxide
4. Personal Care Products (Soap, Shampoo, Etc.)

**OFFICE OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS**  
Russell Union Room 2022 | Tel: 912.478.0108

The Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs, the Office of Public Safety and the Center for Sustainability (CfS) will host a prescription drug drop off on Monday, April 11, at the Russell Union Rotunda from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The drug drop box will accept expired or unused prescription or over-the-counter medications, medication samples, pet medications, inhalers, medicated ointments/lotions/drops and unopened Epi-pens.

The event provides a confidential, safe, convenient and responsible means for the Georgia Southern community to dispose of unwanted medications as well as a chance to learn about the potential for abuse and misuse of medications.

Disposal is as easy as 1 – mark out information on the bottle, only leaving name of the medication, 2 – take the medication to a local drug drop box, and 3 – drop the medications in the

box. Items that should not be put in the drug drop box include needles, lancets, syringes, thermometers, IV bags, hydrogen peroxide, personal care products (soap, shampoo, etc.), and waste and bloody or infectious waste.

In addition, improper disposal of prescription medications poses a threat to public safety.

"One purpose of this event is to keep unused or unwanted prescription drugs out of the wrong hands," said Lt. Christopher McBride from the Office of Public Safety. "Proper disposal helps to prevent children from accidental ingestion. It also helps to cut down on theft and robberies from people looking to steal drugs. We really hope that everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to keep our community safer from drug abuse and misuse."

Proper disposal of medication also helps to prevent environmental concerns.

"Medication that is flushed down the toilet or thrown in the trash can pollute our streams and rivers, harm aquatic organisms, and even contaminate our drinking water supply," said Lissa Legee, Ph.D., director for CfS. "Proper disposal of prescription medications is a simple way to reduce water pollution and protect human health and aquatic systems."

Prescription drug abuse, as defined by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, is "the use of a medication without a prescription, in a way other than as prescribed, or for the experience or feelings elicited." The consequences of this abuse have been steadily worsening, reflected in increased treatment admissions, emergency room visits and overdose deaths. The classes of prescription drugs most commonly abused are opioid pain relievers, stimulants and sedatives for relieving anxiety. The most commonly abused over-the-counter drugs are cough and cold remedies containing dextromethorphan. Although often perceived as safer than illicit drugs, over-the-counter medications can be as addictive and dangerous and put users at risk for other adverse health effects, including overdose, especially when taken along with other drugs or alcohol.

Community members may confidentially dispose of expired or unwanted medication all year round at local drug drop boxes, located at Georgia Southern's Office of Public Safety, the Statesboro Police Department and the Bulloch County Sheriff's Office.

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# Inaugural Southern Authors Expo held at Georgia Southern on Saturday

**APRIL 7, 2016**

Georgia Southern's Alumni Association will host the Southern Authors Expo at the University Store on Saturday, April 9, 1-3 p.m. For the first time in University history, more than 20 alumni-turned-authors will be featured at the Expo and will be selling, signing and exhibiting their books.

"Southern Authors is another example of the great things Georgia Southern alumni are doing in their lives," said Wendell Tompkins, senior director of Alumni Relations/Annual Giving. "Since the start of Southern Authors, we have identified 136 authors who have written more than 200 books. This is a wonderful testament to the creativity and diversity of our alumni."

Author Ross Kelly, son of legend and music Hall of Famer, Emma Kelly, will share from his newest book *What's your favorite song?: The Life, Family and Music of George and Emma Kelly*, a follow-up to *The Lady of 6,000 Songs*. Local alumnus Bob Green will feature his many devotional and parenting books. Other writers will showcase everything from children's and history books to military non-fictions and religious devotionals.

Featured authors also include Francene Breakfield, Shana Burton, Teresa Carter, Harris Churchwell, Briana Cole, Janice M. Johnson, Andrea Miller, Chris Mitchell, Michelle Mitchell, Wendi Nunnery, Terry Oatts, David Osborne, Chiquita Polite, Kathey Porter, Reagan Saula, Nathan Skipper, Gary Smith, Jennifer Valeri, Stan Brobston, David Hodges and Sha-Rhonda Davis.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information on the Expo, contact Angela Harn, senior director of campaign promotions for the Office of University Advancement, at 912-478-1704 or [aharn@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:aharn@georgiasouthern.edu).

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